

Spring 2023

Mankato
Rehabilitation
Center Inc.



Celebrating 70 Years

Introduction of New CEO

In 1953, the Korean War ended and, after debilitating tens of thousands of people, a polio vaccine was introduced. It was also the year a concerned group of community members, seeing the effects of the polio epidemic and injured veterans returning from war, started MRCI. It was an effort to help individuals with disabilities adjust to life different than they had known before. With this population in mind, MRCI was born. Born with a DNA built on service, with one mission in mind: to provide innovative and genuine opportunities for individuals with disabilities.



Now, 70 years later, we may look different to others from the outside, but the DNA of the organization has not changed. We continue to serve individuals with disabilities through person-centered programming which now includes employment, community-based day service and client-directed services.

As we proudly celebrate and reflect on 70 years of service in your community, we are also looking to the future. The Board of Directors of MRCI has appointed Patrick "Casey" Westhoff as its new Chief Executive Officer effective March 20, 2023. Casey will replace long time CEO, Brian Benshoof, who retired in January 2023.

"After a nationwide search, we believe Casey is the right person to guide the organization as we continue to navigate legislative and funding hurdles," says Board Chair Duane Olenius.

"We look forward to introducing him to our community and the wonderful staff that has continued their good work while we conducted our search."

As MRCI has done for the past 70 years, Casey has spent his career in organizations that are dedicated to helping people with disabilities reach their full potential. We will likely face many challenges in our next 70 years, just as we did in the first. But with the best for our clients always top of mind, we will continue to get stronger and stronger. It's in our DNA.



Chief Executive Officer: Patrick "Casey" Westhoff



*To provide innovative and genuine opportunities
for individuals with disabilities or disadvantages
at home, at work and in the community.*

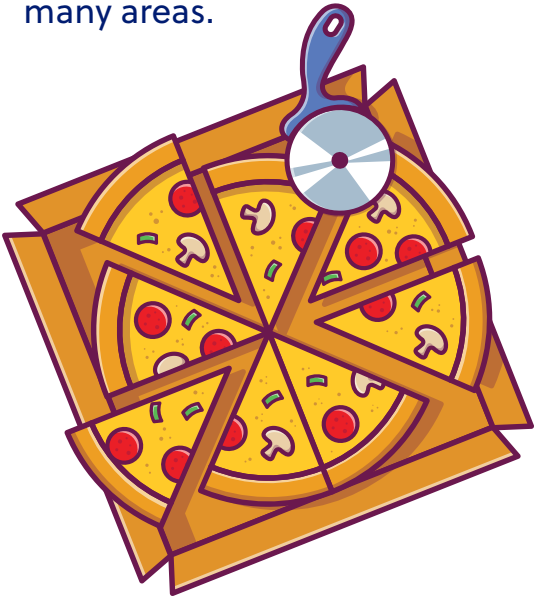
www.MYMRCI.org
800.829.7110

Like Pepperoni and Cheese, MRCI and Pizza Ranch make the perfect pairing!



For years Pizza Ranch in New Prague has employed a number of individuals served by MRCI. One that stands out day in and day out, is Brian Mitchell.

"Brian has been an asset to Pizza Ranch and has been an employee they have been able to count on," says MRCI Employment Specialist Rachel Passe. "The managers there utilize his talents in many areas.



"Brian started at Pizza Ranch three years ago as a dish washer, but the managers at Pizza Ranch learned very quickly, he could be of better use in front of house.

"He moved more to the front-end bussing tables, doing the salad bar and buffet," says Passe. "After doing that for a while they let him make chicken and pizzas! In fact, within six months of starting Brian was helping customers at the cash register. In the last few months, he now has been getting trained on some manager duties so he can help with the closing out the cash drawers. It's been incredible to watch him grow into the job."

Brian says, "I'm practically working almost 40 hours a week, and I love it. Some days I do double shifts if they need the help."

Pizza Ranch is always willing to give individuals served by MRCI work experience, at the same time it helps with their staffing needs. If you want to learn how to be a MRCI employment partner, call 507-386-5600 or visit mymrci.org.



OFISHALLY RETIRED



After 40 years with the organization, and more than a decade leading it, CEO Brian Benshoof retired in January 2023. Benshoof led the organization through many industry changes and through a pandemic, creating the "New MRCI" in 2021 with a move to community-based programming and adding virtual options. "Brian's vision when he assumed the duties as CEO was to be the best provider for the people we serve. Without question, he has enabled us to meet that standard with high quality programs, staff and services," said Duane Olenius current MRCI Board President. Clients, staff and community members gathered in January to say good bye and good luck!



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WHOSE LINE
IS IT MANKATO

AN IMPROV EVENT BENEFITING  MRCI

Who will take the stage
 this year completely
 unscripted?

PRESENTING
 SPONSOR  PIONEER
 BANK



2022 WHOSE LINE IS IT MANKATO? PARTICIPANTS

Save the Date: September 8, 2023  

*At a what
 people can do
 that matters!
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